

Fig. 2 is a diagram showing the influence of annealing temperature at constant cooling rate on maximum rupture strength  $R_m$ ;

Fig. 3 is a diagram showing the influence of cooling rate on maximum rupture strength  $R_m$ ;

Fig. 4 is a diagram showing the influence of cooling rate on maximum rupture strength  $R_m$  and on the percentage elongation  $A\%$ ;

Fig. 5 is a diagram showing the influence of cooling rate on hardness HR30T;

Fig. 6 is a diagram showing the influence of the thermal treatment at low temperature on maximum rupture strength  $R_m$ ;

Fig. 7 is a diagram showing the influence of the thermal treatment at low temperature on the percentage elongation  $A\%$ ;

Fig. 8 is a diagram showing the influence of the plastic deformation by elongation on maximum rupture strength  $R_m$ .

#### IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

--9. (Amended) A steel strip, produced by a process comprising:

hot-rolling a steel strip comprising between 0.050 and 0.080% by weight of carbon, between 0.25 and 0.40% by weight of manganese, less than 0.020% by weight of aluminum, and between 0.008 and 0.016% by weight of nitrogen, the remainder being iron and inevitable trace impurities, to form a strip;

subjecting said strip to a first cold-rolling;

annealing said cold-rolled strip;

optionally, subjecting said annealed strip to a second cold-rolling;

wherein said annealing is a continuous annealing comprising: